

(19)



(11)

EP 3 142 465 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent:
06.11.2019 Bulletin 2019/45

(51) Int Cl.:
H05B 33/08 (2006.01) H05B 37/02 (2006.01)
H04B 3/54 (2006.01) B64D 11/00 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **16188841.7**

(22) Date of filing: **14.09.2016**

(54) HUE AND DIMMING CONTROL CIRCUITS FOR LAMPS OR LED ARRAYS

FARBTON- UND VERDUNKELUNGSSTEUERUNGSSCHALTUNGEN FÜR LAMPEN ODER LED-ARRAYS

CIRCUITS DE COMMANDE ET DE GRADATION DE TEINTES POUR LAMPES OU POUR RÉSEAUX DE DEL

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

(30) Priority: **14.09.2015 US 201514853633**

(43) Date of publication of application:
15.03.2017 Bulletin 2017/11

(73) Proprietor: **Hamilton Sundstrand Corporation**
Charlotte, NC 28217 (US)

(72) Inventor: **DICKEY, John A.**
Caledonia, IL Illinois 61011 (US)

(74) Representative: **Dehns**
St. Bride's House
10 Salisbury Square
London EC4Y 8JD (GB)

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Description

BACKGROUND

[0001] Aircraft lighting systems are used to provide lighting for various purposes. Some systems provide illumination of instrumentation. Some systems illuminate cabin spaces. Some systems are for external lighting. Some systems provide overhead illumination of passenger seating areas to facilitate reading. Light Emitting Diode (LED) arrays are used to provide illumination for some of these lighting systems. LED arrays can require large power controllers to control the hue and brightness. Such power controllers can be located near each individual lighting source, resulting in a large number of such controllers. Having controllers distributed throughout an aircraft can contribute weight to the aircraft and add expense to the cost of the aircraft.

[0002] The intensity of light emission from LED lighting arrays changes in response to an applied power to the LED lighting array. As the applied power is increased, the intensity of light emission usually increases. Some LED lighting arrays emit a light whose color is also a function of the power consumed by the LED lighting array. For example, the color of the emitted light can change in response to a change in the applied voltage to the LED lighting array. People expect that some lighting systems will have a specific color. For example, when reading, people expect overhead illumination to be within a predetermined range of colors called "white light."

[0003] Because both intensity and hue are functions of the voltage and current applied to an LED lighting array, control of both intensity and hue are performed using pulsed methods. The voltage and current levels are determined by a color specification. Then a duty cycle is determined by an intensity specification. The frequency rate at which these pulses are applied to an LED lighting array is bounded by two different concerns or hazards. If the pulse rate is too low, a human will perceive the LED lighting array to be undesirably flickering. If the pulse rate is too high, conducted and/or radiated emissions may cause undesirable coupling to sensitive airplane instrumentation.

[0004] CN 102 548 101 teaches using multiple, differently coloured LEDs for generating colour control. US 2015/237700 discloses a system and method for controlling the brightness and colour of LED lighting.

SUMMARY

[0005] Apparatus and associated methods relate to a lighting system for emitting light of a controlled hue and of a controlled intensity. According to a first aspect, a lighting system according to claim 1 is provided.

[0006] According to a second aspect, there is provided a method of controlling both a hue and an intensity of an LED according to claim 10

[0007] Some embodiments relate to a lighting power

control system for generating a lighting control signal. The lighting power control system includes a DC power supply that generates a supply signal. The lighting power control system includes a chopper that chops the supply signal. The lighting power control system includes a filter that filters the chopped supply signal. The lighting power control system also includes a processor that controls the DC power supply and the chopper. The DC power supply is controlled such that the filtered chopped supply signal has a peak that corresponds to a hue of a Light Emitting Diode (LED). The chopper is controlled such that the filtered chopped supply signal has a ratio of a valley of the filtered chopped supply signal to the peak of the filtered chopped supply signal. The ratio corresponds to a duty cycle that, when applied to the LED, will result in emission of light corresponding to a predetermined intensity value.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008]

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an exemplary system for controlling hue and dimming of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).

FIG. 2 is schematic diagram of an exemplary lighting power control system.

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary lighting element controller.

FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary lighting element controller with dual way communication capability.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart of an exemplary method of controlling both a hue and an intensity of a LED.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0009] This specification discloses an exemplary method of providing hue and intensity control locally with respect to a lighting element in response to a control signal generated remotely at a lighting power controller.

[0010] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an exemplary system for controlling hue and dimming of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). In FIG. 1, exemplary lighting control system 100 includes lighting power control system 102, lighting element controller 104, and LED 106. Lighting power control system 102 includes microprocessor 108, DC power supply 110, AC modulator 112, and Filter 114. Lighting element controller 104 includes Input/Output buffer 118, peak detector 120, valley detector 122, amplitude controller 124, duty cycle controller 126 and power switch 128. Lighting power control system 102 sends command signal 130 to lighting element controller 104 via circuit net 132. Lighting element controller 104 sends excitation signal 134 to LED 106 via circuit net 136.

[0011] LED 106 can represent a single LED or an array of LEDs all excited by excitation signal 134 carried on circuit net 136 or by a copy of excitation signal 134 carried

on one or more other circuit nets. Lighting element controller 104 receives control signal 130 and converts control signal 130 to excitation signal 134 which will be used to affect a hue and an intensity of light from LED 106. The hue and intensity commands are encoded in the control signal 130 using voltage peak, V_{peak} 138, and voltage valley, V_{valley} 140, of control signal 130. V_{peak} 138 and V_{valley} 140 are maximum and minimum voltages, respectively, of command signal 130, which has a DC level and an AC modulation. V_{peak} 138, which is measured with respect to ground reference voltage 142, specifies a peak voltage amplitude of excitation signal 134. A ratio of V_{valley} 140 to V_{peak} 138 specifies the duty cycle of the excitation signal 134. The duty cycle of excitation signal 134 can be expressed as the pulse width, t_{pw} 144, divided by the period, t_{period} 146.

[0012] Lighting power control system 102 creates control signal 130 by way of microprocessor operations in the exemplary embodiment depicted. Microprocessor 108 may receive inputs from a user interface (not depicted), for example, that include desired hue and intensity information of LED 106. In one example, microprocessor 108 provides DC power supply 110 with command signals that causes DC power supply 110 to create a DC signal having the commanded DC level. DC power supply 110 then provides AC modulator 112 the commanded DC signal. In some embodiments, microprocessor 108 provides AC modulator 112 with a command signal that causes AC modulator 112 to modulate the received DC signal with the commanded AC modulation. AC modulator 112 then provides the AC modulated signal to filter 114.

[0013] In an exemplary embodiment, microprocessor 108 provides filter 114 with a command signal that causes filter 114 to apply a commanded filtering operation to the received AC modulated signal. In some embodiments, filter 114 may be static and may receive no command signal from microprocessor 108. Filter 114 provides command signal 130 to circuit net 132 as an output of lighting power control system 102. Filter 114 also provides command signal 130 to microprocessor 108.

[0014] Lighting element controller 104 transforms command signal 130 into excitation signal 134. Input/Output block 118 of Lighting element controller 104 receives command signal 130 from circuit net 132. Input/Output block 118 might provide electro-magnetic interference filtering of command signal 130. Input/Output block 118 provides the received command signal to both peak detector 120 and valley detector 122. Peak detector 120 detects a maximum voltage of the received signal, and provides a signal containing information representing the detected maximum voltage both to amplitude controller 124 and to duty cycle controller 126. Valley detector 122 detects a minimum voltage of the received signal, and provides a signal containing information representing the detected minimum voltage to duty cycle controller 126. Amplitude controller 124 and duty cycle controller 126 provide signals used by power switch 128 for gen-

erating excitation signal 134. In some embodiments, amplitude controller 124 may simply transmit V_{peak} 138 to power switch 128. Power switch 128 generates excitation signal 134 having V_{peak} 138 and a duty cycle substantially equal to a ratio of pulse width 144 to period 146.

[0015] Lighting system 100 may be used to control lighting elements in an aircraft. An aircraft may have many LEDs 106 located in various locations about an aircraft. LEDs 106 may be grouped into a number of independently controllable groups. Each independently controllable group might have a dedicated lighting element controller 104 which provides excitation signal 134 to its associated group of LEDs 106. Each independent lighting element 104 controller may be located proximate the group of LEDs 106 of which it controls. By performing the conversion of user inputs into command signals 130 at a remote location, independent lighting element controllers 104 need not perform such functions. Dividing functionality in such a way can reduce the cost, weight, and/or complexity of independent lighting element controllers 104.

[0016] Lighting power control system 102 may be located at a convenient location of an aircraft. Each lighting element controller 104 may receive an independent command signal 130 from lighting power control system 102. Each command signal contains both an intensity command and a hue command that can be carried on a single pair of wires or with one power wire and using the aircraft grounding system as the return in place of a second wire. Such a configuration can advantageously reduce the cost and/or weight of a wiring harness.

[0017] FIG. 2 is schematic diagram of an exemplary lighting power control system. In FIG. 2, exemplary lighting power control system 102 includes microprocessor 108, power monitoring resistor 148, input filter 150, capacitor 152, step-down transistor 154, diode 156, inductor 158, step-up transistor 160, diode 162, capacitor 164, and output filter 166. Microprocessor 108 communicates with systems, such as, for example, a user interface or a control system, via communications signals carried on circuit net 168. Microprocessor 108 monitors input current from a power supply such as a 28 volt power feed on circuit net 170, by monitoring a voltage drop across power monitoring resistor 148. Filter 150 removes undesirable noise from the 28 volt power feed and prevents locally generated noise from escaping onto the 28V feed. Capacitor 152 provides a source of charge storage for lighting power control system 102.

[0018] Lighting power control system 102 can operate as a buck converter by switching step-down transistor 154. Lighting power control system 102 can also operate as a boost converter by switching step-up transistor 160. Some embodiments may include only capability to operate as either a buck converter or a boost converter. In such embodiments, either step-up transistor 160 used for boost conversion or step-down transistor 154 used for buck conversion may be eliminated.

[0019] Step-down transistor 154 is controlled by micro-

processor 108 to provide a pulse-width modulated conductance of charge from capacitor 152 to circuit net 172. Inductor 158 conducts the charge from circuit net 172 to circuit net 174. Diode 156 prevents circuit net 172 from having a significant negative voltage when step-down transistor 154 is turned off, as current cannot instantaneously turn off in inductor 158. Step-up transistor 160 modulates the signal carried on circuit net 174. In normal operation step-down transistor 154 and step-up transistor 160 are not operated simultaneously. Transistor 168 is controlled by microprocessor 108. Diode 162 provides conduction of the modulated signal from circuit net 174 to filter 166. Capacitor 164 and filter 166 condition the modulated signal, and filter 166 provides command signal 130 to circuit net 132. In some embodiments, microprocessor 108 monitors command signal 130 and performs closed loop feedback operations to ensure that command signal 130 has predetermined V_{peak} 138 and predetermined V_{valley} 140. A second current monitoring function can be added between output filter 166 and circuit net 132 to facilitate closed-loop control of current.

[0020] FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary lighting element controller. In FIG. 3, exemplary lighting element controller 104 includes lightning protection filter 176, peak detector 120 including diode 178 and capacitor 180, valley detector 122, which includes diode 182 and capacitor 184, resistor 186, triangle generator 188, comparator 190 and transistor 192. Command signal 130 is received by lighting element controller 104 via input circuit net 132. In some embodiments, lightning protection filter 176 provides filtering and/or signal protection or both for received command signal 130. For example, snubbers might provide circuit protection of lighting element controller 104. A low-pass filter can remove unwanted high-frequency noise that could have coupled to circuit net 132 and/or can block locally generated noise by transistor 192 from coupling to circuit net 132.

[0021] Resistor 186 provides a leakage path between V_{peak} 138 on circuit net 194 and V_{valley} 140 on circuit net 196. Triangle generator 188 provides sawtooth triangle signal 198 between a reference voltage and V_{peak} 138 carried on circuit net 194. If sawtooth triangle signal 198 is less than V_{valley} 140, then comparator 190 will drive transistor 192 to an on state in which transistor 192 provides V_{peak} 138 on circuit net 194 to output circuit net 136. If sawtooth triangle signal 198 is greater than V_{valley} 140, then comparator 190 will turn off drive transistor 192. When drive transistor 192 is turned off, LED 106, which is connected to circuit net 136, will pull circuit net 136 to the reference voltage (typically a "ground" potential). In this way, a ratio of V_{valley} 140 to V_{peak} 138 specifies the duty cycle of a high-voltage portion of the excitation signal 134. In some embodiments, the polarity of the comparator can be inverted. In such embodiments, a ratio of V_{valley} 140 to V_{peak} 138 specifies the duty cycle of a low-voltage portion of excitation signal 134.

[0022] FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary lighting element controller with dual direction or 'full du-

plex' communication capability. In FIG. 4, exemplary lighting element controller can communicate information to lighting power control system 102 via circuit net 132. FIG. 4's exemplary lighting element controller 104' includes every circuit element of exemplary lighting element controller 104 depicted in FIG. 3, plus some additional circuit components. Between lightning protection filter 176 and peak and valley detectors 178, 180, 182, 184 are a resonant tank circuit 202, capacitor 206, and controlled resistance 208. Resonant tank circuit includes capacitor 203 and inductor 204. Controlled resistance 208 can cause lighting element controller 104' to deliver more AC current through circuit net 132. Lighting power control system 102 can then monitor the AC current content being provided and interpret the provided current into signal information.

[0023] In some embodiments, controlled resistance 208 is essentially a DC signal or only a signal that changes very slowly (e.g., a low-frequency signal). Controlled resistance 208 may provide a controlled load to the modulation that is present on signal 130 while resonant tank circuit 202 blocks the modulation. Controlled resistance 208 is coupled to line 132 through capacitor 206 and lightning protection filter 176. The value of controlled resistance 208 may permit a current proportional to the modulation voltage and inversely proportional to the resistance to flow which can then be detected by microprocessor 108, which interprets the detected current as information that represents the value of the controlled resistance.

[0024] In some embodiments, controlled resistance 208 can be modulated at frequencies are substantially blocked by resonant tank circuit 202. Resonant tank circuit 202 can provide good transmission of the average value of command signal 130 while simultaneously rejecting frequencies associated with modulating controlled resistance 208.

[0025] In various embodiments, various frequencies can be used to supply the AC modulation of a command signal. For example, in some embodiments, a fundamental frequency of modulation might be between 100 Hz and 5 kHz. In an exemplary embodiment, the fundamental frequency of modulation might be between 1 kHz and 3 kHz, for example. In some embodiments, the command signal provides operating power for the lighting element controller. In an exemplary embodiment the command signal provides operating power for the LED controlled by the lighting element controller to which the command signal is provided.

[0026] FIG. 5 is a flow chart of an exemplary method of controlling both a hue and an intensity of a LED. In FIG. 5 exemplary method 300 is executed in part by lighting power control system 305 and in part by lighting element controller 310. Method 300 begins with lighting power control system 305 creating a command signal at step 315. Then, at step 320, lighting power control system 305 sends the created command signal to lighting element controller 310. At step 325, lighting element con-

troller 310 receives the command signal. Then at step 330, lighting element controller 310 detects a peak voltage of the received command signal. At step 335, lighting element controller 310 detects a valley voltage of the received command signal. Then at step 340, lighting element controller 310 generates a pulse stream based on the detected peak voltage and the detected valley voltage. At step 345, lighting element controller 310 sends the generated pulse stream to LED 350. At step 355, lighting element controller 310 generates a load condition. At step 360, lighting element controller 310 sends the generated load condition to lighting power control system 305. Then at step 365, lighting power control system 305 receives the load condition. At step 370, lighting power control system 305 interprets the load condition. For example, a load condition within predetermined limits may be indicative of a failure (e.g., a LED that doesn't illuminate).

[0027] A lighting system for emitting light of a controlled hue and of a controlled intensity according to an exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, among other possible things includes a light-emitting diode (LED) that emits light having a hue that varies in response to variations in a voltage applied to the LED, the emitted light having an intensity that varies in response to variations in a duty-cycle of the voltage applied to the LED. The lighting system also includes a controller configured to receive a command signal having both AC and DC components that result in the command signal having a periodic peak voltage and a periodic valley voltage, the peak voltage being indicative of the controlled hue, and a ratio of the valley voltage to the peak voltage indicative of the controlled intensity. The controller includes a peak detector that detects the peak voltage and a valley detector that detects the valley voltage. The controller also includes a pulse generator that generates a pulse stream having a pulse-voltage magnitude substantially equal to the detected peak voltage and a pulse-voltage duty cycle substantially equal to the ratio of the detected valley voltage to the detected peak voltage. The generated pulse stream is applied to the LED resulting in light emission of the controlled hue and of the controlled intensity.

[0028] A further embodiment of the foregoing lighting system, wherein the pulse generator can include a triangle wave generator, the triangle wave generator can generate a sawtooth triangle wave between a reference voltage and the peak voltage.

[0029] A further embodiment of any of the foregoing lighting systems, wherein the pulse generator can include a comparator, the comparator can be configured to generate a signal that is in a first state when the sawtooth triangle wave is greater than the valley voltage and is in a second state when the sawtooth triangle wave is less than the valley voltage.

[0030] A further embodiment of any of the foregoing lighting system, wherein the AC component of the command signal can include a first frequency range, wherein the controller further can include a status reporting mod-

ule, and wherein the status reporting module can modulate the command signal in a second frequency range, the second frequency range non-overlapping the first frequency range.

5 **[0031]** A further embodiment of any of the foregoing lighting system, wherein the AC component of the command signal can have a fundamental frequency between 100 Hz and 5 kHz.

10 **[0032]** A further embodiment of any of the foregoing lighting system, wherein the AC component of the command signal can have a fundamental frequency between 1 kHz and 3 kHz.

15 **[0033]** A further embodiment of any of the foregoing lighting system, wherein operating power for the controller and for the LED are supplied by the command signal.

20 **[0034]** Any of the foregoing lighting systems can optionally include, additionally and/or alternatively, any one or more of the following features, configurations and/or additional components: i) a switch that connects the LED to the peak voltage when the generated signal is in the first state, and disconnects the LED from the peak voltage when the generated signal is in the second state; and/or ii) a lighting power controller for generating a plurality of lighting control signals. The lighting power controller can include any one or more of the following features, configurations and/or additional components: a) a DC power supply that generates a supply signal; b) a chopper that chops the supply signal; c) a filter that filters the chopped supply signal; and/or d) a processor that controls the DC power supply and the chopper, the DC power supply being controlled such that the filtered chopped supply signal has a peak that corresponds to the hue of the LED, the chopper being controlled such that the filtered chopped supply signal has a ratio of a valley of the filtered chopped supply signal to the peak of the filtered chopped supply signal, the ratio corresponding to a duty cycle that, when applied to the LED, will result in emission of light corresponding to a predetermined intensity value.

25 30 35 40 45 50 55 **[0035]** A method of controlling both a hue and an intensity of a Light Emitting Diode (LED) according to an exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, among other possible things includes creating, in a lighting power control system, a command signal having both AC and DC components that give the command signal a peak voltage and a valley voltage, the peak voltage being indicative of the predetermined color value, a ratio of the valley voltage to the peak voltage being indicative of the predetermined intensity value. The method includes sending the command signal from the lighting power control system to a lighting element controller. The method includes detecting, in the lighting element controller, the peak voltage of the command signal. The method includes detecting, in the lighting element controller, the valley voltage of the command signal. The method includes generating, in the lighting element controller, a pulse stream that has a pulse-voltage magnitude substantially equal to the detected peak voltage and a pulse-voltage duty cycle substantially equal to the ratio of the detected valley voltage

to the detected peak voltage. The method includes providing the generated pulse stream to the LED.

[0036] A further embodiment of the foregoing method, wherein generating the pulse stream can include generating a sawtooth triangle wave between a reference voltage and the peak voltage.

[0037] A further embodiment of any of the foregoing methods, wherein generating the pulse stream can include comparing the sawtooth triangle wave to the detected valley voltage, and wherein if the sawtooth triangle wave is greater than the detected valley voltage a first voltage is provided to the LED, and when the sawtooth triangle wave is less than the valley voltage a second voltage is provided to the LED.

[0038] A further embodiment of any of the foregoing methods, wherein the AC component of the command signal can have a fundamental frequency between 100 Hz and 5 kHz.

[0039] A further embodiment of any of the foregoing methods, wherein the AC component of the command signal can have a fundamental frequency between 1 kHz and 3 kHz.

[0040] A lighting power control system for generating a lighting control signal according to an exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, among other possible things includes a DC power supply that generates a supply signal, a chopper that chops the supply signal, a filter that filters the chopped supply signal, and a processor that controls the DC power supply and the chopper. The DC power supply is controlled such that the filtered chopped supply signal has a peak voltage that corresponds to a hue of a Light Emitting Diode (LED). The chopper is controlled such that the filtered chopped supply signal has a ratio of a valley voltage of the filtered chopped supply signal to the peak voltage of the filtered chopped supply signal, the ratio corresponding to a duty cycle that, when applied to the LED, will result in emission of light corresponding to a predetermined intensity value.

[0041] A further embodiment of the foregoing lighting power control system, wherein the processor can monitor the filtered chopped supply signal so as to ensure that the peak voltage is substantially equal to a predetermined peak threshold.

[0042] A further embodiment of any of the foregoing lighting power control systems, wherein the processor can monitor the filtered chopped supply signal so as to ensure that the valley voltage is substantially equal to a predetermined valley threshold.

[0043] A further embodiment of any of the foregoing lighting power control systems, wherein filtered chopped supply signal can have a fundamental frequency between 100 Hz and 5 kHz.

[0044] Any of the foregoing lighting power control systems can optionally include, additionally and/or alternatively, a load sensor that can sense the current drawn by a load to which the lighting power control system provides the filtered chopped supply signal, the sensed current being indicative of information communicated by the load

to the lighting power control system.

[0045] While the invention has been described with reference to an exemplary embodiment(s), it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes can be made and equivalents can be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications can be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of the invention without departing from the essential scope thereof. Therefore, it is intended that the invention not be limited to the particular embodiment(s) disclosed, but that the invention will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.

Claims

1. A lighting system (100) for emitting light of a controlled hue and of a controlled intensity, the lighting system (100) comprising:

a light-emitting diode, LED, (106) configured to emit light having a hue that varies in response to variations in a voltage applied to the LED (106), the emitted light having an intensity that varies in response to variations in a duty-cycle of the voltage applied to the LED (106); and a controller (104) configured to receive a command signal (130) having both AC and DC components that result in the command signal (130) having a periodic peak voltage (138) and a periodic valley voltage (140), the peak voltage (138) being indicative of the controlled hue, and a ratio of the valley voltage (140) to the peak voltage (138) indicative of the controlled intensity, the controller (104) comprising:

a peak detector (120) that is configured to detect the peak voltage (138);
a valley detector (122) that is configured to detect the valley voltage (140); and **characterized in that**, the controller further comprises:

a pulse generator that generates a pulse stream having a pulse-voltage magnitude substantially equal to the detected peak voltage (138) and a pulse-voltage duty cycle substantially equal to the ratio of the detected valley voltage (140) to the detected peak voltage (138), wherein the generated pulse stream is applied to the LED (106) resulting in light emission of the controlled hue and of the controlled intensity.

2. The lighting system (100) of claim 1, wherein the

pulse generator comprises a triangle wave generator (188), the triangle wave generator (188) configured to generate a sawtooth triangle wave (198) between a reference voltage and the peak voltage (138).

3. The lighting system (100) of claim 2, wherein the pulse generator comprises a comparator (190), the comparator (190) configured to generate a signal that is in a first state when the sawtooth triangle wave (198) is greater than the valley voltage (140) and is in a second state when the sawtooth triangle wave (198) is less than the valley voltage (140).
4. The lighting system (100) of claim 3, further comprising a switch, wherein the switch is configured to connect the LED (106) to the peak voltage (138) when the generated signal is in the second state, and is configured to disconnect the LED (106) from the peak voltage (138) when the generated signal is in the first state.
5. The lighting system (100) of any preceding claim, wherein the AC component of the command signal (130) comprise a first frequency range, wherein the controller (104) further comprises a status reporting module, and wherein the status reporting module is configured to modulate the command signal (130) in a second frequency range, the second frequency range non-overlapping the first frequency range.
6. The lighting system (100) of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the AC component of the command signal (130) has a fundamental frequency between 100 Hz and 5 kHz.
7. The lighting system (100) of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the AC component of the command signal (130) has a fundamental frequency between 1 kHz and 3 kHz.
8. The lighting system (100) of any preceding claim, further comprising a lighting power controller for generating the command signal (130), the lighting power controller comprising:

a DC power supply (110) that is configured to generate a supply signal;
 an AC modulator (112) that is configured to modulate the supply signal;
 a filter (114) that is configured to filter the AC modulated supply signal, thereby generating the command signal (130); and **characterised by**
 a processor (108) that is configured to control the DC power supply and the AC modulator, the DC power supply being controlled such that the command signal has a peak that, when applied to the LED, will result in emission of light corresponding to the hue of the LED, the AC modu-

lator being controlled such that the command signal has a ratio of a valley of the command signal to the peak of the command signal, the ratio corresponding to a duty cycle that, when applied to the LED, will result in emission of light corresponding to a predetermined intensity value.

9. The lighting system (100) of any preceding claim, wherein operating power for the controller and for the LED (106) are supplied by the command signal (130).

10. A method of controlling both a hue and an intensity of a Light Emitting Diode, LED, (106), the method comprising:

receiving, by a lighting element controller (104), a command signal (130) having both AC and DC components that give the command signal (130) a peak voltage (138) and a valley voltage (140), the peak voltage (138) being indicative of the predetermined color value, a ratio of the valley voltage (140) to the peak voltage (138) being indicative of the predetermined intensity value; detecting, in the lighting element controller (104), the peak voltage (138) of the command signal (130);

detecting, in the lighting element controller (104), the valley voltage (140) of the command signal (130); **characterized by**
 generating, in the lighting element controller (104), a pulse stream that has a pulse-voltage magnitude substantially equal to the detected peak voltage (138) and a pulse-voltage duty cycle substantially equal to the ratio of the detected valley voltage (140) to the detected peak voltage (138); and
 providing the generated pulse stream to the LED (106).

11. The method of claim 10, wherein generating the pulse stream comprises generating a sawtooth triangle wave (198) between a reference voltage and the peak voltage (138).

12. The method of claim 11, wherein generating the pulse stream comprises comparing the sawtooth triangle wave (198) to the detected valley voltage (140), and wherein if the sawtooth triangle wave (198) is greater than the detected valley voltage (140) a first voltage is provided to the LED (106), and when the sawtooth triangle wave (198) is less than the valley voltage (140) a second voltage is provided to the LED (106).

13. The method of claim 10, 11 or 12, further comprising detecting, in the lighting power control system (102),

a load condition of the lighting element controller (104), the load condition indicative of information communicated from the lighting element controller (104) to the lighting power control system (102).

14. The method of any of claims 10 to 13, wherein the AC component of the command signal has a fundamental frequency between 100 Hz and 5 kHz.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the AC component of the command signal has a fundamental frequency between 1 kHz and 3 kHz.

Patentansprüche

1. Beleuchtungssystem (100) zum Emittieren von Licht mit einem gesteuertem Farbton und einer gesteuerten Intensität, wobei das Beleuchtungssystem (100) Folgendes umfasst:

eine Leuchtdiode, LED, (106), die dazu konfiguriert ist, Licht mit einem Farbton zu emittieren, der als Reaktion auf Schwankungen einer Spannung, die an die LED (106) angelegt wird, variiert, wobei das emittierte Licht eine Intensität aufweist, die als Reaktion auf Schwankungen in einem Betriebszyklus der Spannung, die an die LED (106) angelegt wird, variiert; und eine Steuerung (104), die dazu konfiguriert ist, ein Steuersignal (130) zu empfangen, sowohl Wechselstrom- als auch Gleichstromkomponenten aufweisend, die dazu führen, dass das Steuersignal (130) eine periodische Spitzenspannung (138) und eine periodische Talspannung (140) aufweist, wobei die Spitzenspannung (138) den gesteuerten Farbton anzeigt und ein Verhältnis der Talspannung (140) zu der Spitzenspannung (138) die gesteuerte Intensität anzeigt, wobei die Steuerung (104) Folgendes umfasst:

einen Spitzendetektor (120), der dazu konfiguriert ist, die Spitzenspannung (138) zu erfassen;
einen Taldetektor (122), der dazu konfiguriert ist, die Talspannung (140) zu erfassen;

und **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Steuerung ferner Folgendes umfasst:

einen Impulsgenerator, der einen Impulsstrom generiert, der eine Impulsspannungsgröße im Wesentlichen gleich der erfassten Spitzenspannung (138) und einen Impulsspannungs-Betriebszyklus im Wesentlichen gleich dem Verhältnis von der erfassten Talspannung (140) zu der erfassten

Spitzenspannung (138) aufweist, wobei der generierte Impulsstrom an die LED (106) angelegt wird, was eine Lichtemission des gesteuerten Farbtons und der gesteuerten Intensität zur Folge hat.

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2. Beleuchtungssystem (100) nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Impulsgenerator einen Dreieckwellengenerator (188) umfasst, wobei der Dreieckwellengenerator (188) dazu konfiguriert ist, eine Sägezahn-Dreieckwelle (198) zwischen einer Referenzspannung und der Spitzenspannung (138) zu generieren.

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3. Beleuchtungssystem (100) nach Anspruch 2, wobei der Impulsgenerator einen Komparator (190) umfasst, wobei der Komparator (190) dazu konfiguriert ist, ein Signal zu generieren, das sich in einem ersten Zustand befindet, wenn die Sägezahn-Dreieckwelle (198) größer ist als die Talspannung (140), und sich in einem zweiten Zustand befindet, wenn die Sägezahn-Dreieckwelle (198) kleiner ist als die Talspannung (140) .

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4. Beleuchtungssystem (100) nach Anspruch 3, ferner umfassend einen Schalter, wobei der Schalter dazu konfiguriert ist, die LED (106) mit der Spitzenspannung (138) zu verbinden, wenn sich das generierte Signal in dem zweiten Zustand befindet, und dazu konfiguriert ist, die LED (106) von der Spitzenspannung (138) zu trennen, wenn sich das generierte Signal in dem ersten Zustand befindet.

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5. Beleuchtungssystem (100) nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Wechselstromkomponente des Steuersignals (130) einen ersten Frequenzbereich umfasst, wobei die Steuerung (104) ferner ein Statusberichtmodul umfasst, und wobei das Statusberichtmodul dazu konfiguriert ist, das Steuersignal (130) in einem zweiten Frequenzbereich zu modulieren, wobei der zweite Frequenzbereich nicht mit dem ersten Frequenzbereich überlappt.

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6. Beleuchtungssystem (100) nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, wobei die Wechselstromkomponente des Steuersignals (130) eine Grundfrequenz zwischen 100 Hz und 5 kHz aufweist.

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7. Beleuchtungssystem (100) nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, wobei die Wechselstromkomponente des Steuersignals (130) eine Grundfrequenz zwischen 1 kHz und 3 kHz aufweist.

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8. Beleuchtungssystem (100) nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, ferner umfassend eine Beleuchtungs-Leistungssteuerung zum Generieren des Steuersignals (130), wobei die Beleuchtungs-Leistungssteuerung Folgendes umfasst:

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eine Gleichstrom-Leistungszufuhr (110), die dazu konfiguriert ist, ein Zufuhrsignal zu generieren;

einen Wechselstrom-Modulator (112), der dazu konfiguriert ist, das Zufuhrsignal zu modulieren; einen Filter (114), der dazu konfiguriert ist, das wechselstrommodulierte Zufuhrsignal zu filtern, wodurch das Steuersignal (130) generiert wird;

und **gekennzeichnet durch**

einen Prozessor (108), der dazu konfiguriert ist, die Gleichstrom-Leistungszufuhr und den Wechselstrom-Modulator zu steuern, wodurch die Gleichstrom-Leistungszufuhr derart gesteuert wird, dass das Steuersignal eine Spitze aufweist, die, wenn an die LED angelegt, eine Lichtemission zur Folge hat, die dem Farbton der LED entspricht, wobei der Wechselstrom-Modulator derart gesteuert ist, dass das Steuersignal ein Verhältnis zwischen einem Tal des Steuersignals und der Spitze des Steuersignals aufweist, wobei das Verhältnis einem Betriebszyklus entspricht, der, wenn an die LED angelegt, eine Lichtemission zur Folge hat, die einem vorbestimmten Intensitätswert entspricht.

9. Beleuchtungssystem (100) nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Betriebsleistung für die Steuerung und für die LED (106) durch das Steuersignal (130) bereitgestellt wird.

10. Verfahren zum Steuern sowohl eines Farbtons als auch einer Intensität einer Leuchtdiode, LED, (106), wobei das Verfahren Folgendes umfasst:

Empfangen, durch eine Beleuchtungselementsteuerung (104), eines Steuersignals (130), sowohl Wechselstrom- als auch Gleichstromkomponenten aufweisend, die dem Steuersignal (130) eine Spitzenspannung (138) und eine Talspannung (140) geben, wobei die Spitzenspannung (138) den vorbestimmten Farbwert anzeigt, wobei ein Verhältnis von der Talspannung (140) zur Spitzenspannung (138) den vorbestimmten Intensitätswert anzeigt;

Erfassen, in der Beleuchtungselementsteuerung (104), der Spitzenspannung (138) des Steuersignals (130);

Erfassen, in der Beleuchtungselementsteuerung (104), der Talspannung (140) des Steuersignals (130); **gekennzeichnet durch**

Generieren, in der Beleuchtungselementsteuerung (104), eines Impulsstroms, der eine Impulsspannungsgröße im Wesentlichen gleich der erfassten Spitzenspannung (138) und einen Impulsspannungs-Betriebszyklus im Wesentlichen gleich dem Verhältnis der erfassten Talspannung (140) zu der erfassten Spitzenspannung (138) aufweist; und

Bereitstellen des generierten Impulsstroms an die LED (106) .

11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 10, wobei das Generieren des Impulsstroms Generieren einer Sägezahn-Dreieckswelle (198) zwischen einer Referenzspannung und der Spitzenspannung (138) umfasst.

12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, wobei das Generieren des Impulsstroms Vergleichen der Sägezahn-Dreieckswelle (198) mit der erfassten Talspannung (140) umfasst, und wobei, wenn die Sägezahn-Dreieckswelle (198) größer als die erfasste Talspannung (140) ist, der LED (106) eine erste Spannung bereitgestellt wird, und, wenn die Sägezahn-Dreieckswelle (198) kleiner als die Talspannung (140) ist, der LED (106) eine zweite Spannung bereitgestellt wird.

13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 10, 11 oder 12, ferner umfassend Erfassen, in dem Beleuchtungsleistungssteuerungssystem (102), eines Lastzustands der Beleuchtungselementsteuerung (104), wobei der Lastzustand Informationen anzeigt, die von der Beleuchtungselementsteuerung (104) an das Beleuchtungsleistungssteuerungssystem (102) kommuniziert werden.

14. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 10 bis 13, wobei die Wechselstromkomponente des Steuersignals eine Grundfrequenz zwischen 100 Hz und 5 kHz aufweist.

15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 14, wobei die Wechselstromkomponente des Steuersignals eine Grundfrequenz zwischen 1 kHz und 3 kHz aufweist.

Revendications

1. Système d'éclairage (100) pour émettre de la lumière d'une teinte contrôlée et d'une intensité contrôlée, le système d'éclairage (100) comprenant :

une diode électroluminescente, DEL, (106) configurée pour émettre de la lumière ayant une teinte qui varie en réponse à des variations dans une tension appliquée à la DEL (106), la lumière émise ayant une intensité qui varie en réponse à des variations dans un cycle de service de la tension appliquée à la DEL (106) ; et un régulateur (104) configuré pour recevoir un signal de commande (130) ayant des composants à courant alternatif et à courant continu qui se traduisent par le fait que le signal de commande (130) a une tension de crête périodique (138) et une tension au point minimum périodique (140), la tension de crête (138) indiquant la teinte contrôlée, et un rapport de la tension au

- point minimum (140) à la tension de crête (138) indiquant l'intensité régulée, le régulateur (104) comprenant : un détecteur de crête (120) qui est configuré pour détecter la tension de crête (138) :
- un détecteur de point minimum (122) qui est configuré pour détecter la tension au point minimum (140) ;
et **caractérisé en ce que** le régulateur comprend en outre :
- un générateur d'impulsions qui génère un courant d'impulsions ayant une amplitude impulsion-tension sensiblement égale à la tension de crête (138) détectée et un cycle de service impulsion-tension sensiblement égal au rapport de la tension au point minimum (140) détectée à la tension de crête (138) détectée,
dans lequel le courant d'impulsions généré est appliqué à la DEL (106), ce qui se traduit par une émission de lumière de la teinte régulée et de l'intensité régulée.
2. Système d'éclairage (100) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le générateur d'impulsions comprend un générateur d'onde triangulaire (188), le générateur d'onde triangulaire (188) étant configuré pour générer une onde triangulaire en dents de scie (198) entre une tension de référence et la tension de crête (138).
 3. Système d'éclairage (100) selon la revendication 2, dans lequel le générateur d'impulsions comprend un comparateur (190), le comparateur (190) étant configuré pour générer un signal qui est dans un premier état lorsque l'onde triangulaire en dents de scie (198) est plus grande que la tension au point minimum (140) et est dans un second état lorsque l'onde triangulaire en dents de scie (198) est plus petite que la tension au point minimum (140).
 4. Système d'éclairage (100) selon la revendication 3, comprenant en outre un commutateur, dans lequel le commutateur est configuré pour connecter la DEL (106) à la tension de crête (138) lorsque le signal généré est dans le second état, et est configuré pour déconnecter la DEL (106) de la tension de crête (138) lorsque le signal généré est dans le premier état.
 5. Système d'éclairage (100) selon une quelconque revendication précédente, dans lequel le composant à courant alternatif du signal de commande (130) comprend une première plage de fréquences, dans lequel le régulateur (104) comprend en outre un module de rapport d'état, et dans lequel le module de rapport d'état est configuré pour moduler le signal de commande (130) dans une seconde plage de fréquences, la seconde plage de fréquences ne chevauchant pas la première plage de fréquences.
 6. Système d'éclairage (100) selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, dans lequel le composant à courant alternatif du signal de commande (130) a une fréquence fondamentale entre 100 Hz et 5 kHz.
 7. Système d'éclairage (100) selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, dans lequel le composant à courant alternatif du signal de commande (130) a une fréquence fondamentale entre 1 kHz et 3 kHz.
 8. Système d'éclairage (100) selon une quelconque revendication précédente, comprenant en outre un régulateur de puissance d'éclairage pour générer le signal de commande (130), le régulateur de puissance d'éclairage comprenant :
une alimentation en puissance à courant continu (110) qui est configurée pour générer un signal d'alimentation ;
un modulateur à courant alternatif (112) qui est configuré pour moduler le signal d'alimentation ;
un filtre (114) qui est configuré pour filtrer le signal d'alimentation modulé à courant alternatif, générant ainsi le signal de commande (130) ; et
caractérisé par
un dispositif de traitement (108) qui est configuré pour réguler l'alimentation en puissance à courant continu et le modulateur à courant alternatif, l'alimentation en puissance à courant continu étant régulée de sorte que le signal de commande a une crête qui, lorsqu'elle est appliquée à la DEL, se traduira par une émission de lumière correspondant à la teinte de la DEL, le modulateur à courant alternatif étant régulé de sorte que le signal de commande a un rapport d'un point minimum du signal de commande à la crête du signal de commande, le rapport correspondant à un cycle de service qui, lorsqu'il est appliqué à la DEL, se traduira par une émission de lumière correspondant à une valeur d'intensité prédéterminée.
 9. Système d'éclairage (100) selon une quelconque revendication précédente, dans lequel des puissances de fonctionnement pour le régulateur et pour la DEL (106) sont fournies par le signal de commande (130).
 10. Procédé de régulation d'une teinte et d'une intensité d'une diode électroluminescente, DEL, (106), le procédé comprenant :
la réception, par un régulateur d'élément d'éclairage

- rage (104), d'un signal de commande (130) ayant des composants à courant alternatif et à courant continu qui donnent au signal de commande (130) une tension de crête (138) et une tension au point minimum (140), la tension de crête (138) indiquant la valeur de couleur prédéterminée, un rapport de la tension au point minimum (140) à la tension de crête (138) indiquant la valeur d'intensité prédéterminée ;
 la détection, dans le régulateur d'élément d'éclairage (104), de la tension de crête (138) du signal de commande (130),
 la détection, dans le régulateur d'élément d'éclairage (104), de la tension au point minimum (140) du signal de commande (130),
caractérisé par
 la génération, dans le régulateur d'élément d'éclairage (104), d'un courant d'impulsions qui a une amplitude impulsion-tension sensiblement égale à la tension de crête (138) détectée et un cycle de service impulsion-tension sensiblement égal au rapport de la tension au point minimum (140) détectée à la tension de crête (138) détectée ; et
 la fourniture du courant d'impulsions généré à la DEL (106).
11. Procédé selon la revendication 10, dans lequel la génération du courant d'impulsions comprend la génération d'une onde triangulaire en dents de scie (198) entre une tension de référence et la tension de crête (138).
12. Procédé selon la revendication 11, dans lequel la génération du courant d'impulsions comprend la comparaison de l'onde triangulaire en dents de scie (198) à la tension au point minimum (140) détectée, et dans lequel si l'onde triangulaire en dents de scie (198) est plus grande que la tension au point minimum (140) détectée une première tension est fournie à la DEL (106), et lorsque l'onde triangulaire en dents de scie (198) est plus petite que la tension au point minimum (140) une seconde tension est fournie à la DEL (106).
13. Procédé selon la revendication 10, 11 ou 12, comprenant en outre la détection, dans le système de régulation de puissance d'éclairage (102), d'une condition de charge du régulateur d'élément d'éclairage (104), la condition de charge indiquant des informations communiquées du régulateur d'élément d'éclairage (104) au système de régulation de puissance d'éclairage (102).
14. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 10 à 13, dans lequel le composant à courant alternatif du signal de commande a une fréquence fondamentale entre 100 Hz et 5 kHz.
15. Procédé selon la revendication 14, dans lequel le composant à courant alternatif du signal de commande a une fréquence fondamentale entre 1 kHz et 3 kHz.

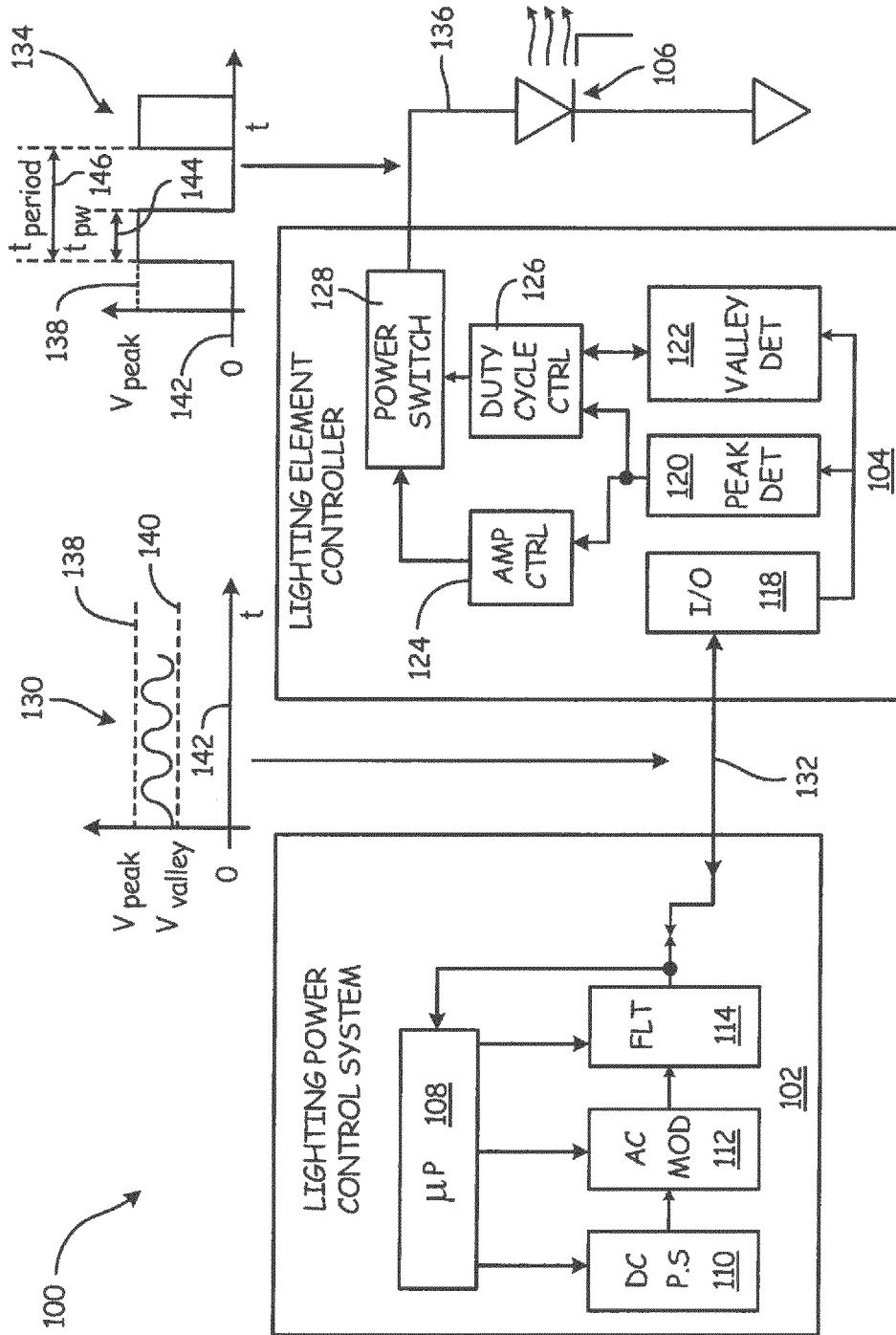


Fig. 1

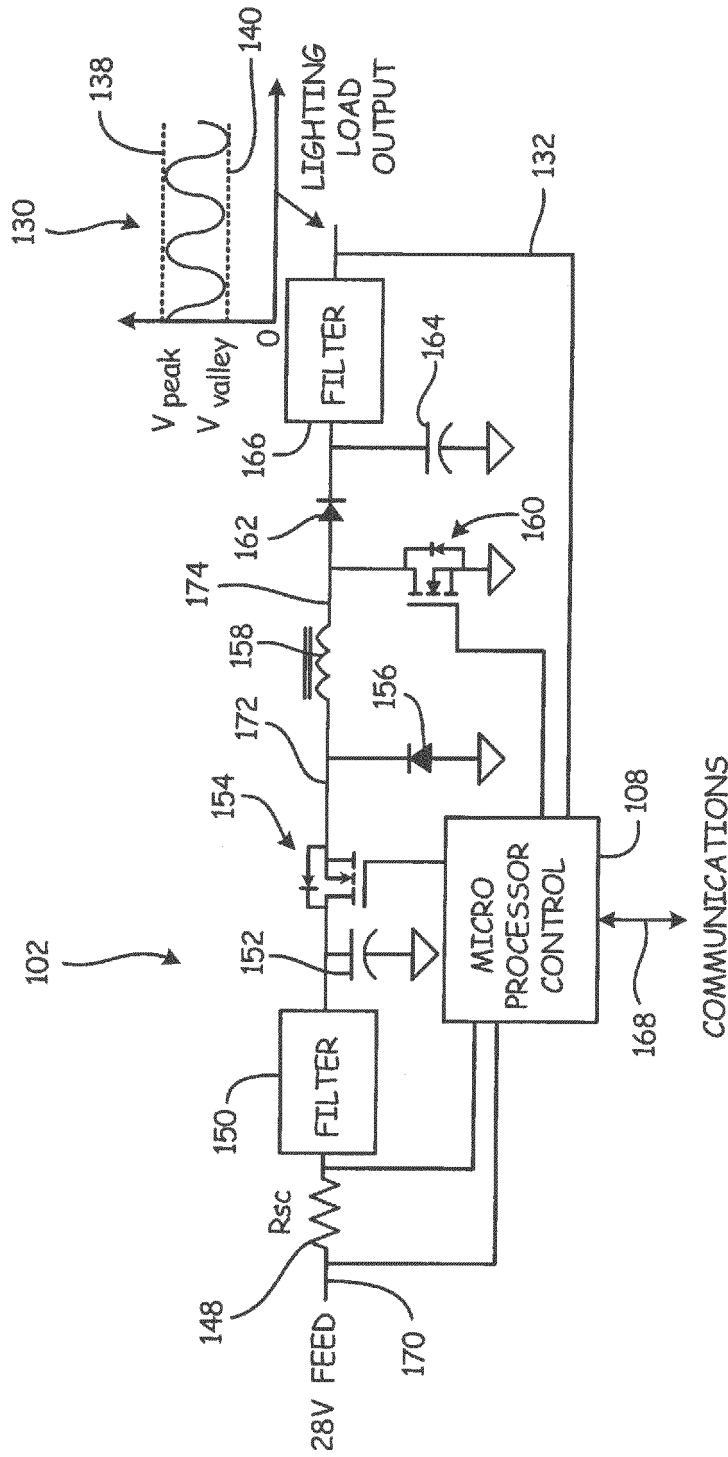


Fig. 2

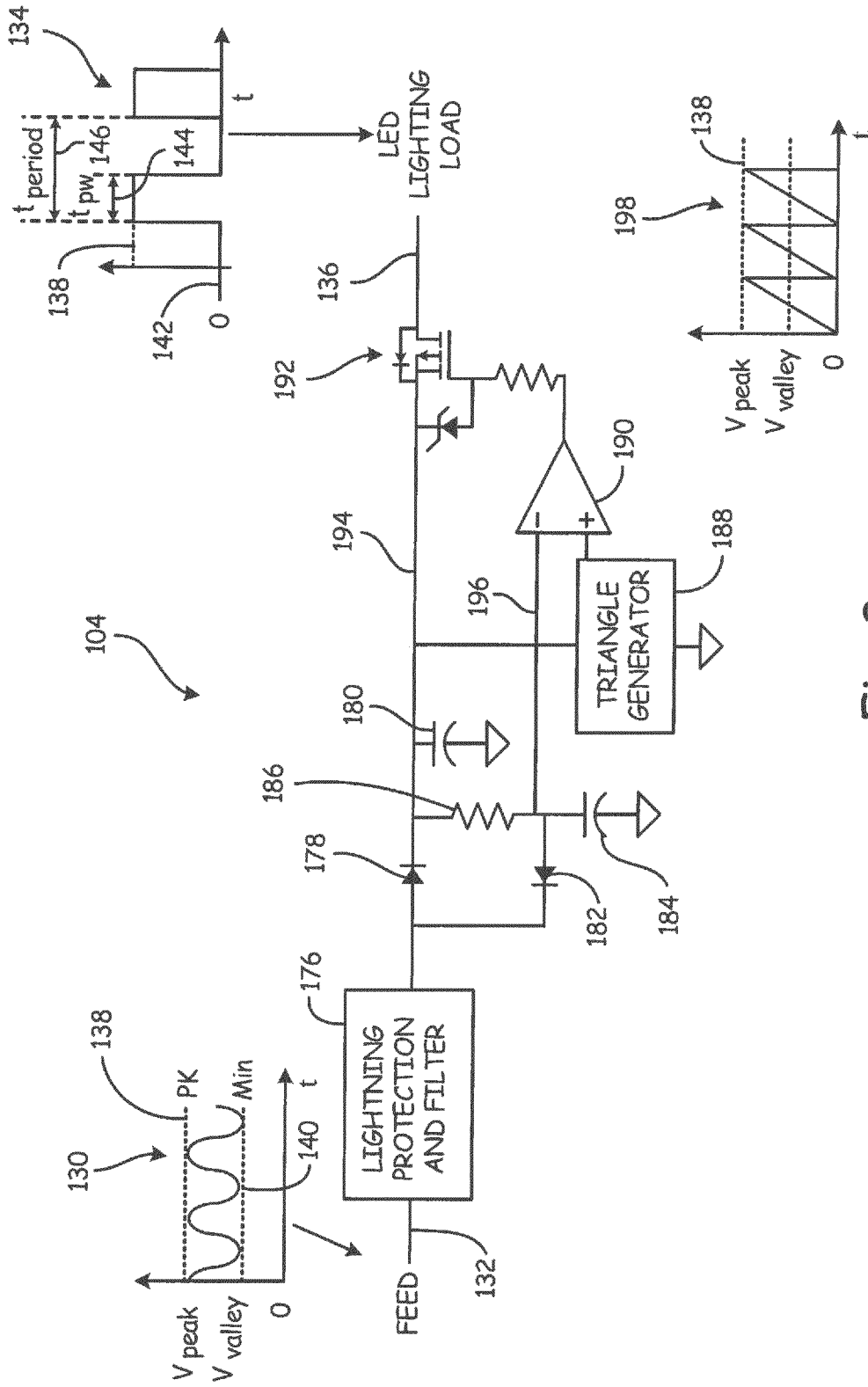


Fig. 3

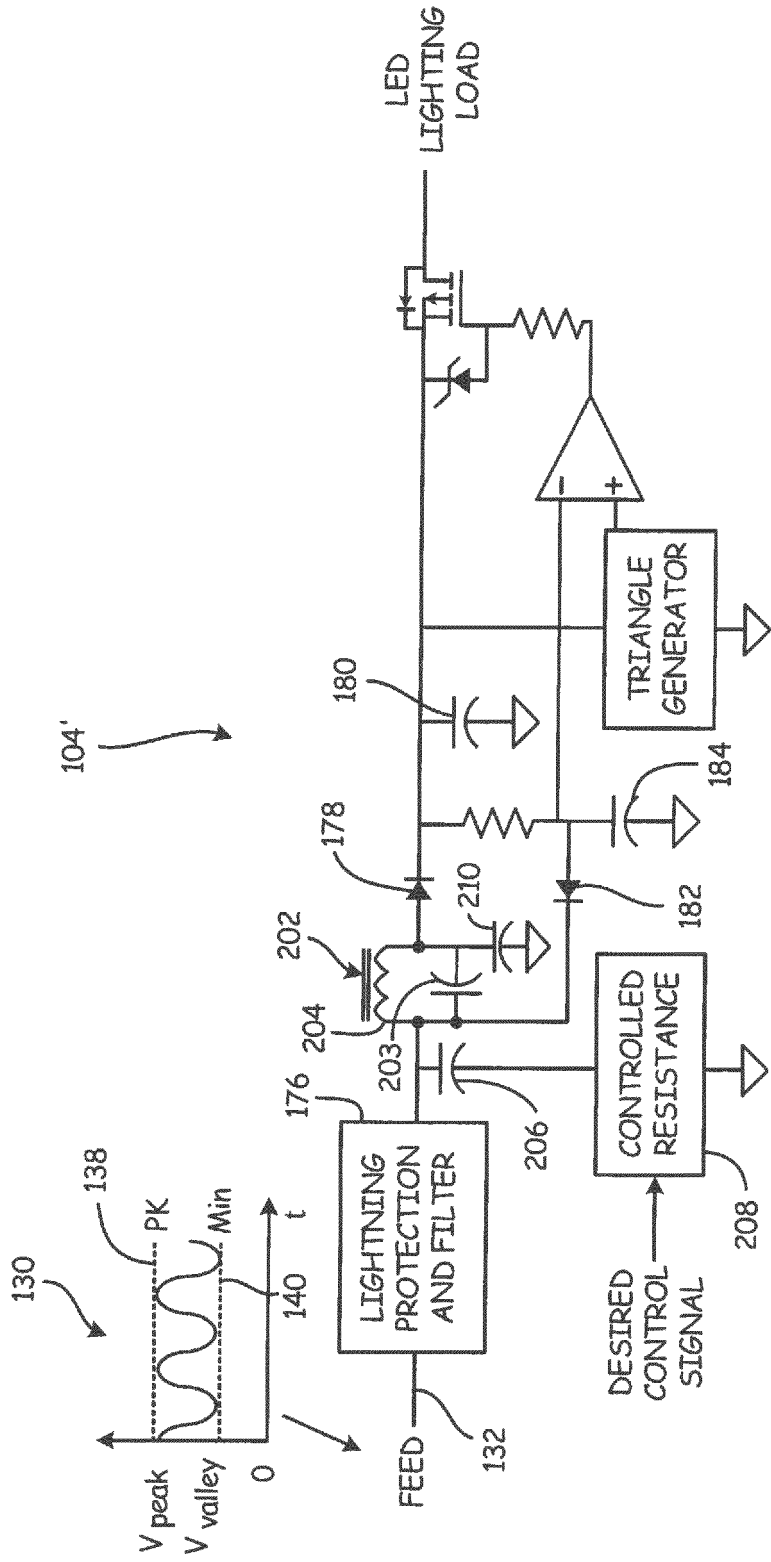


Fig. 4

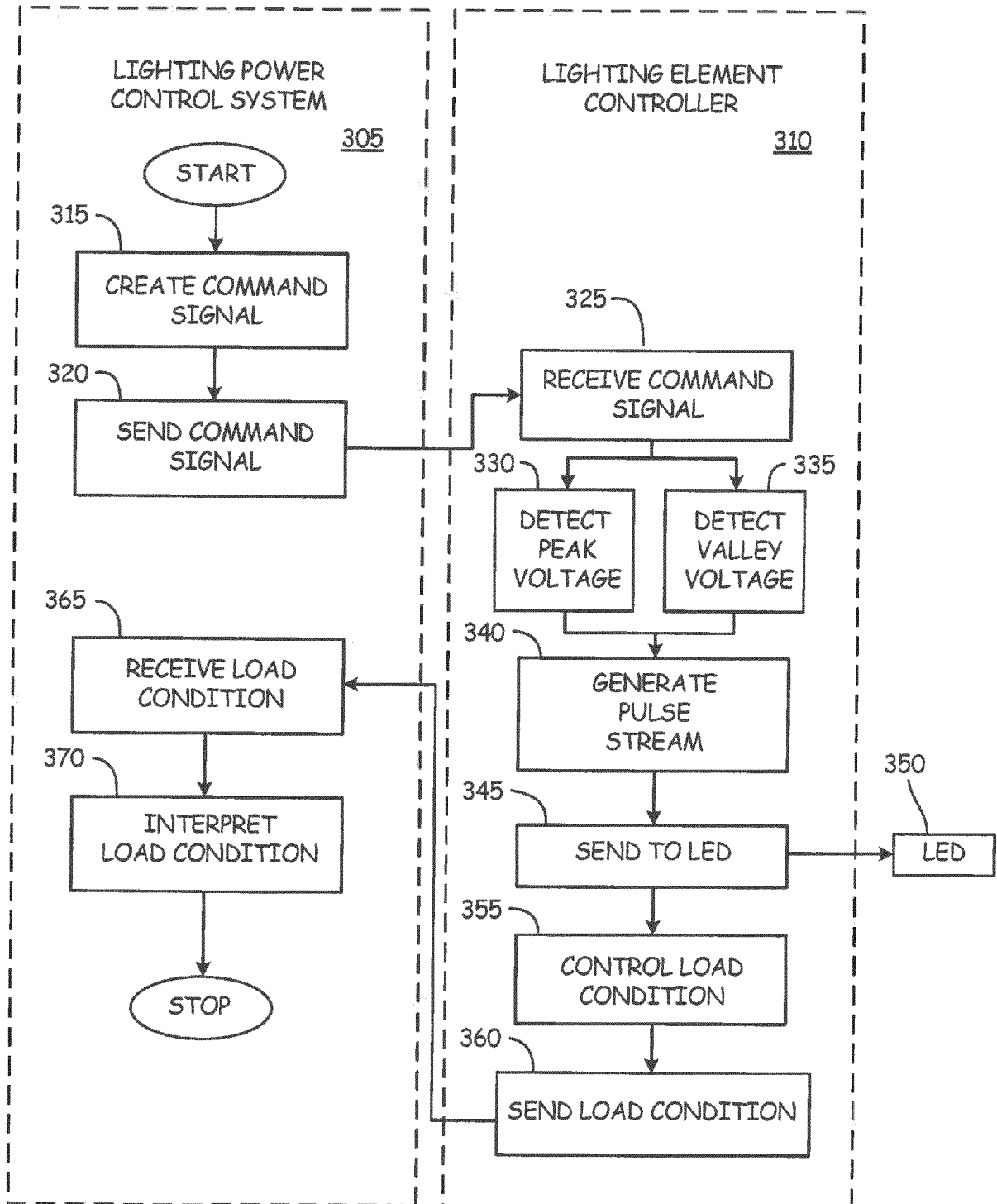


Fig. 5

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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